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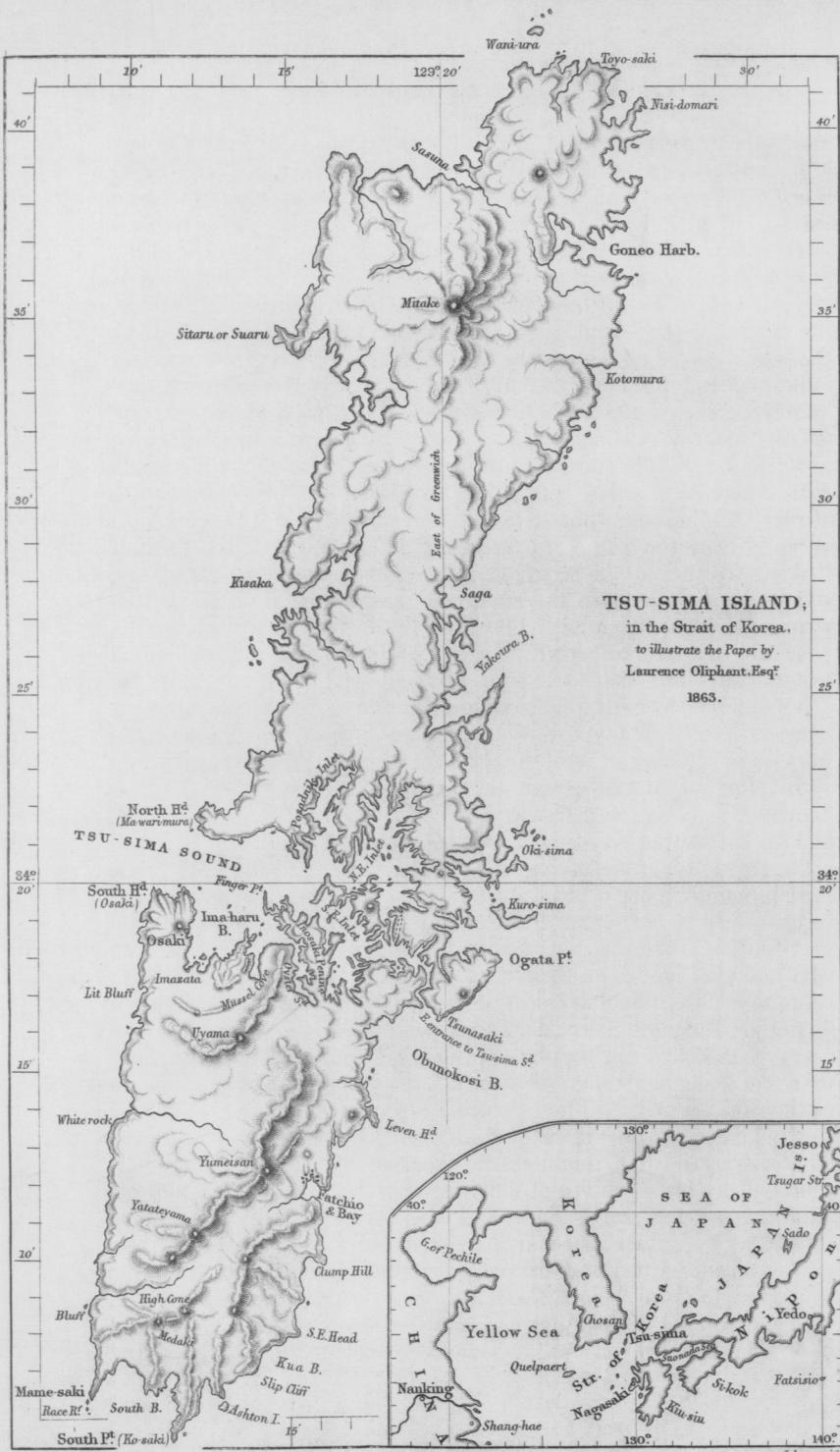
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V.—*A Visit to the Island of Tsusima.* By LAURENCE OLIPHANT,
ESQ., F.R.G.S., &c. &c.

Read, January 26, 1863.

In the early part of August, 1861, H.M. surveying-ship *Actæon*, Capt. Ward, arrived in the bay of Yedo. In the course of his surveying operations Capt. Ward had paid a flying visit to Tsusima, an island situated in the straits which separate Japan from the Corea, and which commands the entrance to the Yellow Sea. In consequence of the intelligence which Capt. Ward brought, it became necessary for me to proceed to Tsusima, and, as prior to the *Actæon's* visit no English ship had ever touched at the island, I venture to think that the few observations I was enabled to make during my short stay in this remote spot may not be uninteresting to the members of this Society. The Suonada or Inland Sea of Japan, navigated for the first time by an English man-of-war about four years ago, has since then been so frequently traversed by steamers of all classes, that it has become almost a highway of communication between Yedo and Nagasaki, and it is unnecessary for me here to describe it at length. Approached by narrow winding straits, which disclose at every turn some new beauty, we are in some measure prepared for the fairy-like scene beyond. Shut in from the storms of the ocean by the islands of Nipon, Kiusiu, and Sikok, not the least charm of the Suonada Sea is its repose: innumerable islands of all sizes and form rest upon its calm surface. The most enchanting combinations which can be conceived, of wood and water, of soft and rugged beauty, meet the eye. Some of these islets slope gently back, the hill-sides terraced with careful cultivation; others run out into the sea in projecting cliffs. Picturesque villages bury themselves in the recesses of secluded valleys, the sides clothed with patches of the feathering bamboos, or clumps of pine and evergreen oak. But while the never-ending variety of scenery in this Inland Sea forms an irresistible attraction to the stranger, its importance in a commercial point of view can scarcely be overrated. 240 miles long and from 30 to 50 miles broad, it is surrounded by populous cities, and its surface is dotted with the sails of innumerable junks. Some notion of the extent of the native commerce by which it is traversed may be gathered from the fact of our having counted in the course of our voyage no less than 1600 junks in the Suonada Sea alone. About 80 miles from the straits of Simonesaki, to the westward, lies the island of Tsusima. On the morning of the 27th of August I arrived off the southern end of the island in H.M.S. *Ringdove*. The most striking object was a singular two-pointed peak, which rises from nearly the centre of the island to a height of 1760 feet. There is, however, another



mountain to the southward of these peaks, which is about 2500 feet high, and as far as we know is the highest point in the island. The southern portion of the island may be said to consist of two broad valleys, divided by a spur heavily timbered. The valleys themselves are partially inhabited and cultivated, and bear a striking resemblance to each other: the higher lands are all clothed with virgin forest. As we did not know the exact position of Tatchio, the capital of the island, it was necessary to send on shore and ask the way. Coasting along the east shore, which seemed sparsely inhabited and presented an abrupt and rocky coast-line, we ultimately perceived the indentation we had been told to expect, and feeling our way cautiously into a somewhat exposed bay, anchored about half a mile from the town of Tatchio. Except for the small native craft, which take refuge in a cove behind a precipitous mass of rock, the harbour affords an insufficient shelter. This cliff rises abruptly from the water to a height of about 100 feet, and forms a striking feature in the scenery: it is covered by pines. The bay, which opens up both to the right and left of the entrance, is surrounded by wooded hills. The town itself is situated at the debouchure of a stream, which, flowing through a rich well-cultivated valley, falls into the right arm of the bay. As Tsusima is the private territory of the Prince, and as the Imperial Government scarcely exercises any control over him, I could not explore the town or neighbourhood as I should have wished. While negotiating vainly for an interview with the great personage himself, I was detained, jealously watched in a guard-house on the water's edge, and not permitted to stray ten yards in any direction. If I had no opportunity of satisfying my curiosity, the population of the town laboured under no such disability, and an hour had not elapsed before every man, woman, and child in Tatchio had, I trust, derived gratification from their minute inspection of the first Englishman who had ever landed in their city. The town of Tatchio is said to contain 10,000 inhabitants: it does not differ in appearance from any other Japanese town, nor did I perceive any difference in the dress or aspect of the population, though I am given to understand that their language differs in some degree from that of the Japanese of the other islands. The ostensible objection to my paying a visit to the Prince lay in the fact of his residence being four miles off. The real reason was, doubtless, the fear of his dignity being compromised by his reception of a foreigner. I was informed that his palace was three stories high, and was surrounded by many acres of park and ornamental grounds; that he himself was both morally and physically a most powerful chief; that his influence was great at Yedo; that his height was seven feet, but that he was covered with sores; that he had one wife, twelve concubines, and forty-three children; that his son was at Yedo as a hostage, and that some of

his illegitimate children were in the service of the temporal Emperor, while others officered his own army. So much time had been occupied by the messages which passed between the Prince's residence and the town, that it was nine o'clock at night before it was finally settled that I should have an interview with his principal Secretary of State, and I passed up a short street, on each side of which men were posted with huge paper-lanterns, to the building appointed for the meeting.

The arrangements made for my reception were primitive in the extreme: a low table, evidently constructed since our arrival, and about 18 inches from the ground, was surrounded by chairs of quaint form, the seats almost on a level with the table. Candles of great size, and each on a separate stand, lighted the room. The usual arrangement of pipes and tea was supplied to each individual, and as our interview lasted till past midnight, we sustained nature on cakes and sweetmeats, as well as on tea and tobacco. We got under weigh before daylight, and coasting along the western shore of the island, arrived at midday off Tsusima Sound. It is difficult to conceive anything more striking of its kind than the reticulation of deep channels, which, dividing the hilly country in every direction, forms a water-labyrinth, which can only be compared to Norwegian fiords; but the scenery, instead of being wild and rugged in character, is soft and rounded. Everywhere massive foliage droops into the water. Here the whole navies of the world might be concealed without an anchor down, for every ship might be moored in deep water to the trees on the banks. Some idea may be formed of the extent of these lanes of water by the chart furnished to the Admiralty by Capt. Ward, who had surveyed this sound a few weeks previously; but to appreciate its beauties one must explore its infinite recesses in a boat. The time at my disposal was so limited and so fully occupied by other duties, that I had but little leisure for this interesting pursuit. The shores of the sound are thinly peopled: here and there a few fishermen's huts line the margin of the bays; but for the most part the virgin forest clothes the hills to the summit with heavy timber. Evergreen oak, sycamores, maples, cypresses, conifers of great variety, are the most common; but I understood from one of my companions, more qualified to judge than myself, and who had visited the mainland, that the flora generally partook rather of a Manchourian than a Japanese character. Tsusima produces wild cats, and deer of species unknown in Japan; the pheasants are also different from those of Niphon. I had no opportunity of satisfying myself on these points, and as my authority is Japanese, I only mention them as a subject worthy the attention of future visitors. The whole island is hilly and heavily timbered: its formation is volcanic. It is almost bisected by the sound I have just described,

the Northern Island being somewhat the largest, and at high water is, in fact, two islands. At low water a sandy spit at the eastern extremity of the sound connects them by a dry causeway. Stakes are put along this bank to prevent the passage of boats at high water. The entire length of the islands is about 35 miles; their breadth from 8 to 10 miles. A road connects Tsusima Sound with the capital, distant about 9 miles. The total population of the islands is about 30,000; but our knowledge of the Northern Island is as yet very limited. The Prince of Tsusima, who is absolute proprietor and quasi independent chief of the whole country, maintains a garrison of 300 men at Chosan, a town in the Corea, distant about 40 miles from Tsusima. He enjoys an entire monopoly of the trade with the Corea, which consists of tiger-skins, hides, rice, silver and gold. A large part of the gold in circulation in Japan is said to be Corean, and traffic in this precious metal is a chief source of wealth to the Prince. Under what terms Chosan is held by a Japanese garrison, and what are the precise relations which subsist between the Japanese Imperial Government, the Corean Government, and the Prince of Tsusima respectively, are points upon which we are not as yet informed; but the time is probably not far distant when our political as well as our geographical knowledge of this most interesting and highly-favoured spot will be widely extended.

VI.—Diary of Proceedings of the Mission into Mekran for Political and Survey Purposes, from the 12th to the 19th December, 1861. By Major F. J. GOLDSMID, F.R.G.S.

Read, March 23, 1863.

December 12, 1861. Kurrachee to the Hubb River, 9 miles; thence $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles to camp; total, $12\frac{1}{4}$ miles.—Encamped on the Beyla or right bank of the Hubb, near a few huts of the Sheikhs and Kurmuttees; soil sandy, with scattered jungle; dews heavy at night; water from river-bed muddy, but good when filtered.

The March from Kurrachee, which we left at 7 A.M., is through the shallow bed of the Lyaree to One Tree Tank; thence through the Moach Plain to the rising ground, and by an easy passage between the hills, terminating at Cape Monz. From this point the valley of the Hubb opens out, the descent into it being very steep, and the Pubb Mountains are descried branching off in lofty irregular ranges N. and N.W. Passed two Dhurmsalas, one about 8 miles on the right of the road, and one on the left bank of the Hubb. At the last the made road ends. The whole march is